

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The RCE is being transmitted by facsimile before the issue fee due date of 12 February 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 15-16 are previously cancelled in Amendment B.

Claims 3, 8-14 and 17-18 remain in the application and have been allowed or indicated as allowable in the Notice of Allowance dated November 12, 2003.

For consistency with allowed claims 3, 8 and 9, allowed claims 17 and 18 have been amended to provide an antecedent for the molded core "outer surface".

Claims 19-24 are new claims in response to the Interview Summary mail date 29 September 2003.

In particular, in the Interview Summary the Examiner stated as follows:

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant proposed an amendment that would recite two distinct parts of the desiccant container, one having a continuous diameter and a second having a protrusion for supporting the desiccant. The examiner advised that it appears that this recitation would distinguish over the JP '542 reference but would be considered to be a new issue after final that would require further search and consideration, and suggested a continuing application or RCE.

Applicant's Interview Summary is generally similar to the Examiner's Interview Summary. Differing slightly applicant proposes an amendment wherein the dessicant core casing includes a first part having a substantially constant, rather than continuous, diameter and a second part having at least one protrusion engaging the dessicant core for holding the core in place.

The presently submitted new claims, claims 19-24 include independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-24. Independent claim 19 is believed to be consistent with the Interview Summary.

Claim 19 is similar to claim 1 in that it recites:

a casing having an inlet for receiving refrigerant and an outlet for discharging refrigerant, the casing including opposed end portions and an intermediate cylindrical portion disposed between said end portions;

a molded core formed from dessicant and a binder being disposed in said casing between said inlet and outlet and having an outer surface and receiving flow of refrigerant therethrough.

Claim 19 distinguishes from claim 1 by reciting:

wherein the intermediate cylindrical portion further includes a first part and a second part, the first part having a substantially constant diameter and the second part having at least one preformed protrusion engaging said core for holding said core in place to inhibit axial movement of said core.

By this structural arrangement of parts, the core is held within the casing by a simple holding means while providing a casing which includes a constant diameter first part and a preformed protrusion second part holding the core.

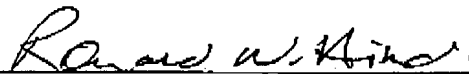
The Japanese patent JP '542, to the contrary, discloses a casing which is corrugated and therefore has a continuously variable diameter casing.

Distinguishing from claim 19, claim 20 recites that the length of the first part is greater than the length of the second part; claim 21 recites that the length of the first constant diameter part is greater than one half the length of the intermediate cylindrical portion. Claim 22 recites that the preformed protrusion includes at least one preformed annular portion; and claim 23 recites that the preformed protrusion includes a single preformed annular portion. Claim 24

depends from claim 19 and recites that the core is formed from a fluid dessicant and binder mix to flow around the preformed portion to provide substantially complete contact therewith.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently submitted new claims are in condition for allowance and a formal Notice of Allowance of these claims and the claims previously allowed is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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